



**Martin O'Malley, Governor Anthony Brown, Lieutenant Governor
Israel C. Patoka, Executive Director**

**Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism
Keith J. Hart, Director**

As a supporting unit of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism creates, promotes and supports volunteer service efforts that engage all Marylanders to strengthen our communities.

January 17, 2009

MEDIA CONTACT:

**Tony White
Public Information Officer
410-767-6248 (o)
410-926-8216 (c)**

Governor O'Malley Proclaims MLK Day in Maryland

***Holiday to launch largest National Service Effort in U.S. History
Governor Awards Minigrants to Local Projects Across the State***

While Marylanders prepare to observe the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday by participating in community service projects, President-elect Barack Obama may have spurred the largest national community service effort in U.S. history. Over 150 community service projects will be underway across the state of Maryland as a part of the MLK National Day of Service.

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism made awards to 10 community-based projects in localities around the state in observance of the MLK National Day of Service with min-grants totaling \$4,000. Governor Martin O'Malley has proclaimed January 19, 2009 as "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Maryland." The proclamation reads:

"Maryland is proud to offer a well-deserved tribute to honor the legacy of social change and justice, as well as the lifetime contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the United States of America. Dr. King was truly a "Drum Major for Justice" whose leadership and teachings continue to inspire solutions and courses of action to strengthen our communities, our country and the world."

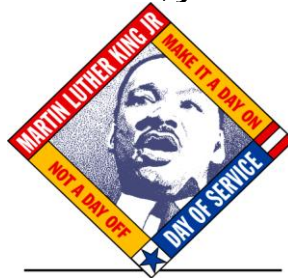
President-elect Obama and Vice President-elect Joseph Biden's "Renew America" initiative calls on Americans of all ages to participate in community service activities.

-more-

President-elect Obama asks citizens of all ages to get involved in service projects on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service but also asked that they commit to volunteer service throughout the year. Mr. Obama's clarion call is expected to attract a record 1.5 to 2 million volunteers. Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act in 1994, designating the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service. Instead of a day off from work or school, the designation encourages Americans of all ages to celebrate Dr. King's legacy by turning community concerns into citizen action. The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday was first recognized in all fifty states on January 17, 2000. It was first observed as a federal holiday on January 20, 1986. The 2009 recognition observes what would have been Dr. King's 80th birthday.

For more information on Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service activities around the state and the National Capital Region, please go to <http://www.mlkday.gov>, www.USAservice.org. To contact your local volunteer center go to 1800VOLUNTEER.ORG or 1-800-VOLUNTEER.

"MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE"



MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2009
MINI GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Community Art Corps- Maryland Institute College of Art- \$500
"One Mosaic, Many Voices" 1/15/09 4:30 pm -7:00 pm
Kids on the Hill 1/17/09
Contact: Julie Lin (410) 225-4264

ASTAR! In Western Maryland- \$500
"Are you Aware" Reflection 1/19/09 10 am – 2:00 pm
"Come Aboard the Peace Train" 1/15/09 - 1/19/09
Contact: Lisa Clark (301) 697-3359 email: lclark101307@aol.com

Baltimore County Volunteers- \$500
Winter Weather Emergency Workshop 1/14/09- 1/15/09
Contact: Grace McDowell (410) 887-3101 email: gemcdowell@baltimorecountymd.gov

Volunteer Frederick- \$500
MLK Day Service Fair 1/19/09 10 am – 2:00 pm
Contact: Stacey A. White (301) 663-5214 ext 2# email: StaceyW@volunteerfrederick.org

Community Mediation Corps- \$500

Carrying the Dream

1/14/09- 1/19/09

Contact: Lorig Charkoudian (410) 553-0206 email: littlquail@aol.com

Volunteer Center for Anne Arundel County- \$500

Peace Riders/ Banneker Douglass Museum

1/19/09 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Contact: Fay Mauro 9410) 897-9207 email: fay@volunteerannearundel.org

Prince Georges Volunteer Center- \$500

2009 Day of Service and Opportunity

1/19/09 9:00 am -2:00 pm

Contact: Valarie Rojas (301) 249-6707 email: consultant@roysynergygroup.com

Franklin Square Elementary- \$500

President Elect Barack Obama's National Day of Service 1/19/09 8:30 am – 8:30 pm

Contact: Lynn Pinder (410) 818-8349© email: lpinder@thetakeactionnetwork.com

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism creates, promotes and supports volunteer service efforts that strengthen Maryland communities.